

In the claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (New) A method for automating error processing and correction in usage and billing systems comprising:

receiving at least one set of error processing rules in at least one master database to be executed by at least one processor and applied to a plurality of defective billing records;

receiving the plurality of defective billing records from one or more billing systems to the at least one master database;

categorizing the plurality of defective billing records by at least a defined error code;

presenting the categorized received billing records for an administrative review;

accepting ad hoc sets of processing rules and administrative overrides;

applying the one or more sets of defined and ad hoc error processing rules to the plurality of defective billing records to correct the billing records;

sending a warning when a defective billing record is encountered by the one of more error processing rules that has an undefined error code; and

sending corrected billing records to their corresponding billing systems for further processing.

3. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein a processing rule includes a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date and a rule maximum duration.

4. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein a processing rule is manually extended, modified, deleted and copied into a new rule.

5. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein a warning is sent when a predetermined threshold is met limiting the total number of records received from the one or more billing systems.

6. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein processing rules are applied to individual errors and to classes of errors in a batch process.

7. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising balancing volume flows of defective billing records and sending a warning when an out of balance condition exists.

8. (New) A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a processor for automating error processing and correction in usage and billing systems, the plurality of instructions comprising:

- receive at least one set of error processing rules in one or more master databases to be executed by at least one processor and applied to a plurality of defective billing records;

- receive a plurality of defective billing records from one or more billing systems to the one or more master databases;

- group the plurality of defective billing records by a defined error type;

- present the grouped billing records for an administrative review;

- send a warning when a defective billing record is encountered that was not anticipated by the one of more sets of error processing rules;

- accept ad hoc sets of processing rules and administrative overrides;

- apply the one or more sets of error processing rules to the plurality of defective billing records to correct the billing records; and

- send the corrected billing records to their corresponding billing systems for further processing.

9. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein a processing rule includes a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date and a rule maximum duration.

10. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein a processing rule is manually extended, modified, deleted and copied into a new rule.

11. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein a warning is sent when a predetermined threshold is met limiting the total number of records received from the one or more billing systems.

12. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein processing rules are applied to individual errors and to classes of errors in a batch process.

13. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, the plurality of instructions further comprising balancing volume flows of defective billing records and sending a warning when an out of balance conditions exists.

14. (New) A device for automating error processing and correction in usage and billing systems comprising:

a master database including at least one set of error processing rules and a plurality of defective billing records received from one or more billing systems; and

a processor in communication with the master database and the usage and billing systems, the at least one processor categorizing the plurality of defective billing records of the master database by at least a defined error code, presenting the categorized billing records for an administrative review, accepting ad hoc sets of processing rules and administrative overrides, applying the one or more sets of defined and ad hoc error processing rules to the plurality of defective billing records to correct the billing records, and sending corrected billing records to their corresponding billing systems for further processing.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the processor provides a graphical user interface and wherein the processor presents the categorized billing records for an administrative review via the graphical user interface.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the processor sends a warning when a defective billing record is encountered by the one of more error processing rules that has an undefined error code.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the processor sends a warning when a predetermined threshold is met limiting the total number of records received into the master database from the one or more billing systems.

18. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the processor applies the error processing rules to individual errors and to classes of errors in a batch process.

19. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the processor balances volume flows of defective billing records and sends a warning when an out of balance condition exists.

20. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein an error processing rule includes a description of the rule, a rule start date, a rule end date, and a rule maximum duration.